

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated October 24, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended during the phone interview on January 25, 2008.

Claims 1, 8, 17 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-22 are pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-12 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FIGs. 1-2 of applicant's related art (hereinafter "ARA") in view of Japanese Publication No. JP-09-138417 to Ando (hereinafter "Ando") and further in view of Japanese Publication No. JP-61-45225 to Watanabe (hereinafter "Watanabe"). Claims 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FIGs. 1-2 of ARA in view of Japanese Publication No. JP-5-249422 (hereinafter "422") and further in view of Watanabe.

Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the Office Action date October 24, 2007 be withdrawn. In the Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action filed July 3, 2007, Applicants simply amended the independent claims to include allowable subject matter from claims that were indicated as allowable. So effectively, the Examiner is withdrawing the previous indications of allowability, so the finality of the Office Action is improper, as Applicant has not effectively amended the claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-16 and request consideration. Claim 1 is allowable at least in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being formed at a boundary of each corresponding unit cell region except for one unit cell region wherein no main seal pattern is formed at any of a boundary of the one unit cell region." Claim 8 is allowable at least in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, "forming a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being disposed at a boundary of each corresponding unit cell region except for one unit cell region wherein no main seal pattern is formed at any of a boundary of the one unit cell region." None of the cited references including, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The Examiner states that this feature is taught in Ando where there is an opening in the seal pattern 33. But claims 1 and 8 claim “one unit cell region wherein no main seal pattern is formed at any of a boundary of the one unit cell region”. So while Ando does have a small part of the boundary where there is no seal pattern, *i.e.* and opening, most of the boundary does have a seal pattern present. This is contrary to “no main seal patter [being] formed at any of the boundary” as claimed, which requires that there be no seal pattern around one unit cell region. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8, and claims 2-5 and claims 12 and 15-16 that depend therefrom respectively, are allowable over the cited art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 17-22 and request consideration. Claim 17 is allowable at least in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being formed at a boundary of each corresponding one of the unit cell regions except for at least one middle unit cell region wherein no main seal pattern is formed at any of a boundary of the one unit cell region.” Claim 22 is allowable at least in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, “forming a plurality of main seal patterns on the substrate, each main seal pattern being disposed at a boundary of each corresponding unit cell region except for one middle unit cell region wherein no main seal pattern is formed at any of a boundary of the one unit cell region.” None of the cited references including, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Claims 17 and 22 are allowable for the same reasons as in claims 1 and 8 discussed above. Accordingly, claims 17 and 22, and claims 18-21 that depend from claim 17, are allowable over the cited art.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

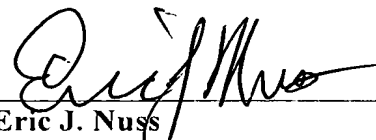
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: **25 February 2008**

By



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